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NEWSWEEK
9 June 1986

Senate Security Gap

The Senate has its own national-security problem, a bipartisan panel of senior senators has concluded—recommending a new office to prevent security leaks by members and staff. In a letter to Majority Leader Robert Dole, the senators said that current procedures for dealing with classified information were "haphazard at best" and that "hostile intelligence services pose a real threat to Senate security." At

least three times during the past 10 years foreign intelligence officials have been caught trying to plant spies on congressional staffs. The proposed office would provide a central repository for classified data and a liaison with other government agencies—and would work to safeguard Senate telephone and computer systems. "We think it sounds like a good idea," said a Dole spokesman.